

Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3652

S E C R E T OTTAWA 1754

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CA

SUBJECT: RAND CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVE IN OTTAWA

REF: STATE 096940

1. ELEANOR WAINSTEIN VISITED OTTAWA JUNE 6 AND, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF, MET WITH PANEL CHAIRED BY EXTAFF DIRECTOR FOR INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY LIAISON MIDDLETON, AND INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM EXTAFF, RCMP, SOLICITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, AND QUEBEC PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, SHE HAD BRIEF SESSION WITH EXTAFF UNDERSECRETARY RITCHIE, AND MET WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS. SHE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HER MEETING WITH CANADIANS, AND DID NOT AVAIL HERSELF OF OFFER TO MEET SEPARATELY WITH PANEL MEMBERS. CANADIANS WERE FORTHCOMING IN DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS LISTED REFTTEL, AND IN RESPONSE TO RELATED QUESTIONS RAISED BY MRS. WAINSTEIN. SOME HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW;

2. GOC HAS DELIBERATELY NOT RPT NOT ANNOUNCED ITS POLICY SHOULD CANADIAN DIPLOMAT BE KIDNAPPED, ALTHOUGH IN THE EVENT POLICY WOULD BE VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF US. (RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE THAT OF HOST GOVERNMENT, GOC PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE BUT WOULD NOT PAY RANSOM OR RELEASE PRISONERS.) CANADIANS THOUGHT AN ANNOUNCED

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POLICY MIGHT MAKE ADOPTION OF POSITION EASIER IN INDIVIDUAL

CASES FOR COUNTRY WHICH DIPLOMAT REPRESENTS,BUT COULD REDUCE FLEXIBILITY AND COULD NOT BE RIGIDLY ADHERED TO. THEY CITED ISRAELI DECISION TO RELEASE PRISONERS IN MAALOT EPISODE AS EXAMPLE. AN ANNOUNCED POLICY MIGHT SERVE AS DETERRENT IF OBJECT OF KIDNAPPING WERE RANSOM OR PRISONER RELEASE, BUT COULD NOT DETER KIDNAPPERS WHOSE OBJECT WAS PUBLICITY FOR A CAUSE, OR SIMPLY TO EMBARRASS A HOST GOVERNMENT. FIRM POSITION TAKEN BY GOC DURING CROSS KIDNAPPING MAY HAVE HELPED PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS WITHIN CANADA. BUT OFFICIALS THOUGHT IMMUNITY SO FAR ENJOYED BY CANADIAN DIPLOMATS ABROAD WAS LARGELY DUE TO CANADA'S STATUS AS MIDDLE-GRADE POWER, WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES NOT PARTICULARLY VALUABLE TARGETS.

3. IN DISCUSSION BARGAINING PROCEDURES, RCMP REPS NOTED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOSTAGE AND KIDNAPPING SITUATIONS. IN KIDNAPPING, FIRST CONSIDERATION IS TO KNOW WITH WHOM ONE IS DEALING AND TO ENSURE THAT COMMUNICATIONS FROM KIDNAPPERS ARE AUTHENTIC. RCMP REPS SAID PATIENCE OF GREAT VALUE IN KIDNAPPING SITUATIONS, AND THAT DELAY AND CONTINUED CONTACT WITH KIDNAPPERS GAVE INCREASED OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO ERR. IN DEALING WITH HOSTAGE SITUATION -- WHERE IDENTITY AND LOCATION OF KIDNAPPERS KNOWN -- IT IMPORTANT KEEP KIDNAPPERS AWARE OF POSSIBILITY OF A WAY OUT. DURING CROSS AFFAIR, AVENUE OF ESCAPE (EXILE TO CUBA) WAS FREQUENTLY REITERATED TO FLQ TERRORISTS. EXTAFF OFFICIALS THOUGHT UN CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC KIDNAPPINGS MAY HAVE CLOSED SOME AVENUES, AND EXILE TO CUBA AN INCREASINGLY UNATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE, BUT STRESSED NEED IN HOSTAGE BARGAINING TO HOLD OUT SOME HOPE TO KIDNAPPERS. THERE EVIDENT DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN EXTAFF AND RCMP AS TO WHETHER A GOVERNMENT SHOULD HONOR A COMMITMENT TO KIDNAPPERS ONCE HOSTAGES RELEASED. RCMP REPS SUGGESTED THAT ONCE RELEASE OBTAINED, BARGAINS OFFERED IN REACHING OBJECTIVE WERE NOT BINDING.

4. GOC OFFICIALS THOUGHT SECURITY MEASURES TO PROTECT DIPLOMATS COULD NEVER BE TOTALLY EFFECTIVE, UNLESS PUSHED TO EXTREME WHERE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

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BECAME MEANINGLESS, BUT COULD DETER AMATEURS AND CREATE ORGANIZATION PROBLEMS FOR DETERMINED KIDNAPPERS. THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN LEST SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN BY A SENDING COUNTRY (BODYGUARDS, ETC.), DETRACT FROM PRINCIPLE OF HOST GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY. CANADIAN REPS ABROAD ARE BRIEFED ON SECURITY MEASURES (NO FIREARMS ARE PERMITTED) AND HANDWRITING, PICTURES, AND FAMILY SITUATION ARE RECORDED FOR EASE IN VERIFICATION SHOULD CANADIAN BE TAKEN.

5. REMINISCING ON CROSS AFFAIR, RITCHIE SAID UK HAD BEEN SCRUPULOUS IN REFRAINING FROM INTERFERENCE IN CANADIAN HANDLING OF CASE, AND WONDERED WHETHER US, ESPECIALLY VIEW PROXIMITY, COULD HAVE MAINTAINED SUCH AN ATTITUDE. CANADIAN OFFICIALS ADMITTED THAT PRINCIPLE OF HOST GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY COULD PROVE DIFFICULT TO ADHERE TO UNDER PUBLIC PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY SHOULD HOST GOVERNMENT APPEAR INEFFECTUAL OR UNRESPONSIVE.

6. BELIEVE GOC OFFICIALS WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN WHATEVER PORTIONS OF RAND STUDY CAN BE RELEASED TO THEM.
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